

5/29/70

Dear Gary,

Glad to get your letter. I'll answer briefly, until I get a call I'm expecting, and then I'm going to work outside the short time before supper, for I've not been able to get any exercise this week.

I am now a lawyer! Yup. Recognized as such by one federal court and about to be by another. I went to Baltimore yesterday and began what may be real negotiations with the federal attorney, in the presence of the judge, to see if we can either reach an amicable settlement on the old helicopter case or, failing that, if we can stipulate to some of it in advance. In Chicago, I am able to be my own lawyer, but the case is not yet officially filed. How I wish the clerk had been as informative a month ago! He sent me the forms for a pauper's oath and I've filled them out and just returned them, notarized. Unfortunately, I am afraid that within the meaning of the law, I am that. If this is accepted, then I'll not have to post an advance \$250 bond required by out-of-state litigants and will not have to pay the various fees. All I'll have to worry about is how to get the fare to Chicago. We are, right now, about \$800 short of the immediate bills for such things as interest, taxes, etc. and there are other bills, too, like utilities. To say nothing of such minor items as food.

I've been getting my Archives files in order and seeing to it that I have a complete dupe to take to court before I get snowed under in the helicopter suit. I've got 1969 and 1970 to do. Then I'll have to do the same with the much smaller Justice and SS files. Then I'll be ready to redraft the suits I've drafted. My the way, why not get your newfound newspaper friend to get a story from me via AP Baltimore on my winning this first Freedom of Information suit relating to any of the assassinations. Wrong desk, but try. Or me, by phone. See below.

What happened to your profs is terrible, but it has been happening to others for years. Remember?

You got the complaint, with attachments, in March. They simply gave up rather than face trial, waiting until the last day, then telling us by phone. They then delayed giving me copies until a reporter asked them about this, when, magically, they phoned to tell me the copies were ready the next day. Except the pictures, which will take three more weeks.

Careful with Jaffe, and tell him nothing. Remember, to his father it is his job, his future as well as his present, Jaffe's education. He knows enough already and has been silent. And do you want to destroy him in his son's eye and mind? It will soon enough be in court. I suggest that rather than father telling the son he knew nothing, he really said he was not directly connected with it. He couldn't possibly share Eardley's offices and not know what was going on.

Don't worry about the missing mail. I'm not even bothering to tell you what is missing. If you got the letter I wrote Kelley about the film, you have the most important thing. He gave me more on this, but still not all.

I am aware of the possibility some of my complaints may be psychosomatic. However, I fear the doctors have reached the same conclusion and that if there is something of another character it can be ignored. One that has bothered me (both ways) is not a year old. A pain in the left testicle that was constant then eased off and now is uncommon and connected with no activity I can pinpoint. But for some time now I am aware that if I scratch a certain point in my back, on the left side, close to the spine and just below the lowest rib, I feel it in that testicle.

Not badly, not sharp, but I think I feel it as though it were travelling down a canal or a nerve. I tell myself it is nothing because the docs have never bothered to check it after diagnosing last year's thing as a strain. But I know that in the back of my mind is doubt about the doctors. When other things coincide with it, I wonder whether they, too, can be psychosomatic, like a reduced flow of urine (no pain, no inability) if I can't urinate when I feel the urge. A thinner stream. So, I tell myself that, too, is a nervous reaction, but I haven't really convinced myself. There seems to be nothing I can do but sweat it out.

Sprague's piece has reached me, too, but not any answers to the questions I asked him. Lifton: possibly so, but this would not be the intelligent approach. With the support he is getting from his dad, or by foregoing a month's longwinded phoning he could spend a month there and have much more at less cost. And I do not think he is less than real bright, so he should know this.

I'll go to Washington Monday and pick up my papers. I'll cancel all the pictures but one. I'm not going to wait that long, another three weeks.

Alex Nebbett is my special typing. Bennett, the once-rightwinger who is away from WLOD and in NYC. I sent him a message about Gary just this past weekend. I didn't forget. I doubt Kevin can do anything unless Gary is an experienced newsmen, and it would not be a good approach for you to make rather than Gary. He is at KHJ radio, 5515 Melrose Ave., LA. They have no talk shows, just heavy on news. I'll ask him if he needs a newsmen. Then we can find out of Gary is.

Hope your draft situation straightens out.

On the pro's, I do feel sorry, but I cannot help think how much of all our current travail is because of the almost total abdication of the intellectuals. Incidentally, I've gotten a response from Marshall, who now uses the Yale Law School letterhead and envelope. He reiterates his previous position.

Good luck,